

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



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For release: March 1 or after

ROYAL SWEDISH COLLECTION  
OF CHINESE ART DUE HERE

Opening at The Cleveland Museum of Art March 1 is an exhibition of 150 Chinese art works from the impressive, 2300-piece collection of His Majesty King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden. The exhibition is now touring seven museums in the United States under the auspices of the newly-established International Exhibitions Foundation, headed by Mrs. John A. Pope in Washington, D.C.

This is the first time that the King's collection has been made available to the public anywhere in the world. The Swedish people will have an opportunity to see this same portion when it returns to Stockholm in August.

Mr. Bo Gyllensvärd, Keeper of the King's Collection and Director of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm, assisted by Dr. John A. Pope, Director of The Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., worked closely with His Majesty in choosing the objects to tour: these include bronzes, jades and ceramics, enamelware and carvings in lacquer, ivory, bamboo and rhinoceros horn. The objects span the millenia between the bronze age and the 18th century and reflect the scope and quality of the King's collection which, itself, with its fine examples of Chinese art, reflects the history and culture of China.

Among the rarest items shown are: a porcelain, Ting ware bowl (Northern Sung dynasty), unique because it is one of less than a half dozen known that are black, Ting ware normally being white; a small, stone black teapot (Northern Temmoku ware), done by a secret Sung dynasty firing technique which causes a profusion of silvery spots over the surface; a first century T'ang pottery STANDING FIGURINE of a maidservant holding a wine vessel --- a charming and graceful piece; and a large, carved red box, notable among the lacquer wares executed

during the Ming dynasty.

His Majesty has spent nearly a lifetime in collecting Chinese art. And in the years since 1907, when he began to assemble these works, he has become not only a devoted collector and connoisseur, but moreover, a naturally inclined and respected scholar in the field. The King (Crown Prince until 1950) took up studies in Swedish archaeology in 1900. He participated in many diggings in Greece, the Far East, Italy and his own country, was chairman for 29 years of the China Committee to support Swedish research excavations in China and, in addition to building up his own collection, was instrumental in the development of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, opened in 1926, and now a European center for studies in Chinese archaeology. His collection will remain at the Cleveland Museum through April 2 and then will travel to San Francisco.

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